CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) A system for assessing viewer response to television programming that can be associated with information describing the programming content, said system comprising:

a receiver for receiving and displaying television programming;

at least one sensor for sensing a physical reaction by the viewer viewing the displayed programming and generating a signal representative of the physical reaction, wherein the at least one sensor includes a microphone for picking up vocalizations made by the viewer; and

a processor for receiving ~~the sensor signal and analyzing it~~ and analyzing said sensor signal to determine if it can be associated with at least one recognizable viewer emotional response, whereupon the processor associates the recognized emotional response with a descriptive information relating to the program that was being displayed when the physical reaction was ~~sensed.~~sensed; and

a reporting device that delivers results of the analysis of the sensor signal after a predetermined quantity of the television programming has been displayed.

2.   (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a memory device for storing the association between the programming description and sensed reaction as a viewer preference.

3.   (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one sensor comprises a plurality of sensors.

4.   (Original) The system of claim 3, further comprising a sensor-signal receiver for receiving the signals generated by at least some of the plurality of sensors.

5.   (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the sensor-signal receiver combines the received sensor signals so that the processor may analyze an aggregation of sensors signals.

6.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one sensor further comprises a video image capturing device.

7.   (Original) The system of claim 6, further comprising a video processor in communication with the video camera, the video processor comprising an image library for comparing to video images received from the video camera.

8.   (Original) The system of claim 6, further comprising a video recorder for recording the images captured by the video camera.

9.   (Cancelled)

10.   (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an environmental sensor for sensing a change in the viewing environment and transmitting environmental information to the processor for use in analyzing viewer physical reactions.

11.   (Currently Amended) A method of assessing viewer response to television programming that includes one or more distinct segments, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a receiver on which the viewer may view the programming;

monitoring at least one viewer physical condition including a vocalization of the viewer monitored with a microphone;

associating a perceived physical-condition status with a viewer response;

delivering a result of the associating after the one or more distinct segments; and

determining when a program segment is being received that corresponds to a pre-selected viewer response previously associated with a physical-condition status.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein in the monitoring step includes monitoring a plurality of viewer physical conditions.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the physical condition status includes a change in the physical condition relative to a baseline level, the change being perceived during the monitoring step.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the physical condition is body temperature.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the physical condition is heart rate.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the monitoring step is performed by an image-capturing device for capturing images of the viewer viewing the programming.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of providing a video processor for receiving the video images captured by the video camera and comparing them to reference data to interpret a viewer movement represented in the captured images.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

determining at least one distinguishing characteristic of a displayed programming segment;

associating a viewer response corresponding to a physical condition perceived during the display of the programming segment with a viewer preference level; and

applying the preference level to enhance program selection.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein program selection is enhanced by providing a notification that specified future programming will contain at least one segment possessing the at least one distinguishing characteristic.

20.   (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the program selection is enhanced by inserting into a program a segment possessing the at least one distinguishing characteristic.

21.   (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the program distinguishing characteristic is derived from electronic program guide (EPG) information provided with the television

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programming.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the program segment distinguishing characteristic is derived from audio, video and text signal properties of television programming.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

         providing a recorder coupled to the receiver to record selected program segments; and
         automatically recording the program segment that corresponds to a pre-selected viewer response.

24.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:
         extracting information related to the program segment that corresponds to a pre-selected viewer response from the television programming; and
         automatically displaying the information on the receiver.

25.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the monitored physical condition viewer physical condition is a biometric response.

26.   (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the biometric response is galvactic skin response.

27.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the monitoring step comprises monitoring a visually observable response.

28.   (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the visually observable response is related to the gaze of the viewer.

29.   (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the gaze-related response includes the direction of the viewer's gaze.

30.   (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the gaze-related response includes the duration of the viewer's gaze in a certain direction before changing to a different direction.

31.   (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the visually observable response includes the furrowing of the viewer's brow.

32.   (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the monitoring step includes measuring the depth of any furrows in the viewer's brow, tending to indicate confusion or lack of understanding.

33.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the associating step is performed at least in part by using the Hidden Markov Model technique.

34.   (Currently amended) A method of assessing listener response to audio programming that includes one or more distinct segments, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a receiver having a speaker for presenting the audio programming to the listener;

monitoring at least one listener physical condition that includes at least one audible response sensed by a ~~microphone; and~~microphone;

associating said at least one audible response with a viewer emotional ~~response.~~response; and

delivering a result of the associating after the one or more distinct segments.

35.   (Cancelled)

36.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the audible response is listener laughter.

37.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the audible response is the inflection of a listener's vocalization, tending to indicate a question has been enunciated.

38.   (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein the associating step is performed at least in part by using the Hidden Markov Model technique

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